

A STRONG WEAK MAN

Judges 16:20-30

Topic for July 21.

We are told in I Cor. 10:11, that the things that are written concerning the heroes of the Old Testament are our "admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come."

In the life of Samson we may certainly find admonitions which will do us good. In our study we have little to do with questions as to the historical value of these Old Testament stories. We are concerned with their ethical value. When we study the Bible therefore, it is not for us to try to reconcile everything with science or history or logic. It is for us to glean its moral lessons and profit by them. Turning to the life of Samson we will find it instructive. Samson lived in a time of low moral standards and the historian did not leave out the bad things of his life in giving to us his biography. We find him therefore justly called in spite of his physical strength, a weak man. There are such today. Let us learn from them how to avoid weakness.

SCRIPTURE HELP

1 The secret of physical strength, Num. 6:1-6; Judges 16:17. From these passages we learn that Samson was a Nazarite and his mother was consecrated before him. What was the Nazarite's vow and how is the temperance it required conducive to physical strength? What has the will of the mother to do with the strength or weakness of a child?

2 The secret of spiritual weakness. In Samson's case it was lack of separation from the world, Judges 14:3. Other causes: Self-indulgence, I Cor. 9:27. Avarice, I Tim. 6:10. Pride, I Pet. 5:5. Neglect of prayer, Matt. 26:41.

Name other causes.

3 True strength and glory, Zech. 4:6; Jer. 9:23, 24; II Pet. 1:5-10.

FOR OPEN MEETING

- 1 Does God want us to be strong?
- 2 How may we gain physical strength?
- 3 Which is of most value physical or mental or moral strength?
- 4 Can physical or mental strength save a man?
- 5 How are we tempted today to depend upon material rather than spiritual power?
- 6 What lesson of Samson's life do you consider most helpful?

FOR SHORT TALKS

- 1 Compare Samson the type of physical power with Samuel the man of spiritual power.
- 2 Show how one besetting sin may ruin a whole life.
- 3 Show the danger of mingling with evil persons.

C. F. YODER.

Young People in Cincinnati, O.

The Endeavorers made Sunday a busy day. From morning until evening and during almost every hour of the day there were services in some part of the city. The day opened in refreshing contrast to yesterday, and the breezes added materially to increase the attendance. The day began with three meetings, of one hour each, held in three of the largest of the city churches, and conducted by Revs. Floyd Tompkins of Philadelphia and Cornelius Wolfkin of Brooklyn. The meeting at the Central Christian church was to have been conducted by Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman of New York City, who is now seriously ill at his country home at Winona Lake, Ind., but the meeting was not held.

The various pulpits about the city were occupied during the rest of the morning by the visiting ministers, whose topics were "Twenty Years of Christian Endeavor." The

attendance at these meetings was large, especially so at St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal church, where Rev. Charles M. Sheldon of Topeka, Kan., spoke.

The afternoon was devoted to three simultaneous evangelistic meetings in the Music Hall Auditorium. These meetings were classified for men, women and children. The attendance at all was large. The men's meeting in the Auditorium Endeavor was to have been conducted by Rev. Dr. Chapman, but in his absence, William Phillips Hall of New York City led it. President Clark occupied the chair a portion of the meeting. The meeting was opened by Rev. U. F. Swengel of York, Pa., who was followed by Rev. J. D. Blackburn of Covington, Ky. Musical Director F. H. Jacobs of Brooklyn, assisted by John Hillis of Greencastle, Ind., rendered solos, after which Mr. Hall spoke on "Christianity as a Profitable Investment."

The meeting for the women in Auditorium Williston became a temperance meeting. It was conducted by General Secretary John Willis Baer of Boston, assisted by Percy S. Foster of Washington, D. C., who led the chorus. Miss Grace W. Beeman of Dayton, O., rendered several cornet solos. Addresses were made by the Misses Margaret Koch of Waterville, Me., and Rhena Mosher of Westfield, N. Y.

Christian Life

Following Jesus

Master! bid me rest awhile;
I have journeyed many a mile
O'er a dark and toilsome way;
May I rest awhile today?

Long I've known 'tis good for me
Patiently to follow Thee;
Pardon me when I forget
That my way by Thee is set.

Thornier paths by Thee were trod,
Thou the sinless Son of God;
Should I then cast down my load
While I tread an easier road?

Lord! Thy gracious voice I hear:
"Weary child! be this thy cheer,
Thou art ever in My sight,
Even in the darkest night.

"Mine thy burden; bear it on
Till thy time of rest shall dawn;
Light as morning's lightest beam
Shall My yoke of service seem."

Rise, my soul! whate'er thy lot,
Stand therein, and fear it not:
Ever go where Jesus leads;
He provides for all thy needs.

Thomas Mackellar, Ph.D.

Society's Greatest Need

Rev. G. W. Terbush, pastor of the West End Methodist Episcopal church, preached a sermon a few weeks ago on "Society's Greatest Need." His text was from the Gospel according to St. John 13:17. "If ye know these things happy are ye if ye do them." He said in part:

Under the guidance of the principle enunciated in these words I wish to direct your attention to society's greatest need. It is

not the success of any political policy. While it is not a matter of indifference what policy shall shape governmental affairs, still it is not possible for the success of any particular policy, whether it be protection, free trade, expansion, anti-expansion or prohibition, to supply society's greatest need.

It is not an ideal social environment. Some so claim, believing it will give us and enable us to keep a "paradise of outward comfortableness." We do need a better environment, from which should be eliminated the liquor business, brothels, gambling dens, immoral places of amusement, hovels as a place of abode for the poor and an unequal distribution of wealth. But suppose we had it, how long would it last?

Society's greatest need is a large increase of individual righteousness. Society needs to be christianized. This work must go hand in hand with the effort to secure a better environment in order to secure any permanent improvement in our social condition. We need a higher measure of morality in our domestic life. We need more morality in industrial life. What has been the greatest factor in bringing about the collapse of competition and the formation of four great industrial combinations? Unrighteousness in aim and method. Competition carried on in the spirit of greed means a cut-throat business. Hence its downfall. And if this spirit of greed shall control those who direct these great combinations their doom is sealed. They will go down before the wrath of the people.

And none will question the need of a higher righteousness in political life. With here and there a brilliant exception it is sadly in need of a strong moral tonic.

Kingdom of God on Earth

Christian Advocate

Christ came to establish his kingdom on earth primarily, not in the relation of man to man, but in the relation of man to God. The first thing in the moral world to be corrected is the human heart. It must be made over new. The community as a whole can never be right with the individuals composing that community until each individual is right with God. Our contention is not for individualism in society, but for an individual surrender to God. Society can never rest upon itself. Moral ideas do not root in society, nor arise from the relations of the units of society to each other, but from the relations of the units of society to God. There is nothing more vague and empty than a godless sociology. That there is a third something called the "moral constitution" of society which can be elevated, improved, corrected independent of the improvement of the individuals composing society, is a vagary pure and simple. Public sentiment is nothing aside from the consensus of individual sentiments.

We cannot educate society except as the individuals are educated. The individuals unite in a community to educate and elevate